

McClenagan, Laura

From: Harry Vaughn <mrhvaughn@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 22, 2021 11:05 AM
To: Planning Clerk; Harry Vaughn; Dana Stolzman; Jan Vaughn
Subject: Re: Marshall Ranch Streamflow Enhancement Project; PLN-2019-15661

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

November 22, 2021

Humboldt County Planning and Building Department

3015 H Street

Eureka, CA 95501

Re: Marshall Ranch Streamflow Enhancement Project; PLN-2019-15661; SCH # 2019109088

Dear Planning Director, Planning Staff, and Planning Commissioners:

I am writing to encourage you to approve the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Salmonid Restoration Federation's Marshall Ranch Streamflow Enhancement Project PLN-2019-15661, SCH # 2019109088.

I have lived in Salmon Creek, Southern Humboldt County, off and on since 1953. Salmon Creek is the name given to our creek, formerly known as Se naan Kook as where I live is traditionally Wailake Territory. Salmon are essential to this place I call home. And water is life for salmon. Salmon emerge from the gravels and travel to the ocean to gather nutrients and bring them back to their natal stream, with straying that sustains other watersheds... like when salmon stray from the South Fork Eel River to the Mattole River. Like when coho salmon stray as smolts from the Klamath on fresh water plumes (affected by the dams that negatively impact our salmon by "regulating flows of fresh water").

Water is life, and salmon are life and food for the people and animals. The Marshall Ranch streamflow enhancement project is focused on allowing oversummering smolt coho salmon, steelhead and some oversummering chinook salmon (I have found in my downstream migrant traps on Sproul Creek on Barnum Timber Co. lands now transferred to Green Diamond). The additional flows are essential to keeping our salmon/steelhead alive. And Redwood Creek is essential to our salmon/steelhead.

Redwood Creek has a large population and water withdrawals for domestic and agricultural use have resulted in diminished flows. In addition to the drought there is not enough water to go around. And salmon/'steelhead/amphibians are suffering due to the loss of water in the stream channel of Redwood Creek. This project has undergone a lot of community input and has been reduced in scope due to concerns of downstream residents. It has been adjusted in size to address community concerns and now needs to move forward.

I have spent time building and setting traps on Redwood Creek as part of the Eel River Salmon Restoration Project in the early 1980's till our small scale hatchery program was discontinued in 2005. As part of our program habitat restoration, monitoring of fish/amphibian populations and a salmon in the classroom program education project (using natal Redwood Creek chinook salmon, coho salmon and steelhead eggs) to allow students to hatch, rear and release "their" fish back into Redwood Creek.

In addition to the recent acquisition of property in Upper Redwood Creek (locally called Pollack Creek) will allow additional water to be provided to Redwood Creek and in addition to the Marshall Ranch Streamflow Enhancement Project; PLN-2019-15661 will hopefully keep our salmon and amphibian populations viable into the future.

In recent years we have lost our salmon in Salmon Creek. One student at Salmon Creek Community School (where we put Redwood Creek salmon eggs in a non-grid tied solar powered salmon incubator tank) asked "what will we call Salmon Creek when the salmon go extinct". Sadly we now face that reality. salmon returning to Salmon Creek in many years.

So now the salmon are returning to the South Fork. People are reporting both chinook and coho salmon passing up river. We have an opportunity to keep the salmon alive and maybe one day the salmon will again stray into Salmon Creek and it will be known for the salmon for which it was named...

I SUPPORT THIS STREAM ENHANCEMENT PROJECT.

Harry Vaughn
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Salmon Creek Southern Humboldt Co.

Our creek was named for salmon... hopefully one day the salmon will return and this project gives me hope that within my lifetime they will....